Claims

1. A method for restricting a message service in a communication network, wherein

at least a sender (12, 13, 14) and a recipient (12, 13, 14) of a message communication in said network are identifiable by a respective address (A12, A13, A14); said method comprising the steps of

keeping a record (28) containing information about certain addresses with which a message communication is not allowed;

deciding (S30A) whether a message communication with a certain address is allowed or not, and writing (S26) information of unallowed addresses in said record (28), thus determining contents of said record (28);

receiving a request for establishing a message communication (S30);

analyzing (S31, S27, S32) on the basis of the information in the record whether a message communication is allowed; and

preventing (S29) the transmission of a message if said message is related to an unallowed address according to the analyzing step, wherein

each of said decision step (S30A) and said preventing step (S29) is done in a switching center (11, 15) of said communication network, and said record (28) is kept in said switching center (11, 15).

2. A method according to claim 1, wherein one of said sender and said receiver is a message service center (14).

3. A method according to claim 1, wherein said switching center is a visited switching center (11), to which a terminal of a subscriber being involved in said message

communication is related at a time when said message is to be transmitted.

4. A method according to claim 1, wherein said switching center is an interworking switching center (15).

5. A method according to claim 1, wherein said contents of said record are subscriber specific.

6. A method according to claim 5, wherein said record is common to a group of subscribers.

7. A network capable of restricting a message service, comprising

at least one sender (12, 13, 14) and one recipient (12, 13, 14), wherein each has an address (A12, A13, A14);

a plurality of switching centers, wherein a terminal is always related to a visited switching center (11);

a record (28) in which information about unallowed addresses is written;

an analyzing means (27) for analyzing with the help of said record (28) whether an address is unallowed;

means (29), operable to prevent transmission of a message if said message is related to an address which is unallowed according to the analysis of the analyzing means (27); and

decision means (26) for deciding on a permission for an address in a message communication, wherein

said record (28), said analyzing means (27), said preventing means (29) and said decision means (26) are located in each of said switching centers (11).

EPO - DG 1

8. A network according to claim 7, wherein one of said sender and said recipient is a message service center (14).

9. A network according to claim 7, further comprising at least one interworking switching center (15), wherein said record (28), said analyzing means (27), said preventing means (29) and said decision means (26) are located in said interworking switching center (15).

10. A network according to claim 7, wherein said network is adapted to perform a method according to claim 1.

EPO - DG 2